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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/134,801 08/14/98 RACZ

N 3431.1US

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EXAMINER

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FINKE, S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3763	5

DATE MAILED:

09/30/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/134,801	Applicant(s) Racz
Examiner Sharon Finkel	Group Art Unit 3763

Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

This action is **FINAL**.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 1-3, 5-8, 10-14, and 16-19 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) 4, 9, and 15 is/are objected to.

Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The drawing(s) filed on Aug 14, 1998 is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892 ✓

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 3

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 ✓

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: catheter member receptacle 51 (page 4, line 26), and insertion member receptacle 26 (page 5, line 3). Correction is required.
2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: 36 and 52. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant defines the dependent features in terms of how the device operates instead of defining the structural limitations which is confusing because the dependent claims appear to be method claims. To correct the problem, claim 6 could be rewritten as, "The lock washer of claim 5, wherein said tube engagement flanges are adapted to flex towards the center of said ring to decrease the diameter of said tube receptacle." Claim 7 could be corrected by inserting --are adapted to-- after the word "flanges" in line 2. Claim 10 could be

corrected by changing “collapses” to --is adapted to collapse--. Similar corrections should be made to claims 11 and 17-19.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 12-14 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith et al., U.S. 5,603,702. See especially figures 5-7.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 4, 9 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. Claims 10 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The claims are directed to the embodiment where there is a collapsible web disposed between adjacent flanges of the tube engagement flanges. None of the prior art discloses or suggests these webs

which are useful to facilitate the transition of the tube engagement flanges from the engaged state to the relaxed state.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sharon Finkel whose telephone number is (703) 305-0154.



Sharon Finkel

Sharon Finkel

September 25, 1999